Who ſhall *decide*, when doctors diſagree,
And ſoundeſt caſuiſts doubt? *Pope.*

DE'CIDENCE. *n. ſ.* [*decido*, Latin.]
1. The quality of being ſhed, or of falling off.
2. The act of falling away.
Men obſerving the *decidence* of their horn, do fall upon the conceit that it annually rotteth away, and ſucceſſively renew-eth again. *Brown's Vulgar Errours, b.* iii. *c.* 7.

DECI'DER. *n. ſ.* [from *decide.*]
1. One who determines cauſes.
I cannot think that a jeſter or a monkey, a droll or a puppet, can be proper judges or *deciders* of controverſy. *Watts.*
It is ſaid that the man is no ill *decider* in common caſes of property, where party is out of the queſtion. *Swift.*
2. One who determines quarrels.

DECI'DUOUS. *adj.* [*deciduus*, Latin.] Falling; not perennial; not laſting through the year.
In botany the perianthium, or calyx, is *deciduous* with the flower. *Quincy.*

DECI'DUOUSNESS. *n. ſ.* [from *deciduous.*] Aptneſs to fall; quality of fading once a year. *Dict.*

DE'CIMAL. *adj.* [*decimus*, Latin.] Numbered by ten; multiplied by ten.
In the way we take now to name numbers by millions of millions of millions, it is hard to go beyond eighteen, or, at moſt, four and twenty *decimal* progreſſions, without confuſion. *Locke.*

To DE'CIMATE. *v. a.* [*decimus*, Latin.] To tithe; to take the tenth.

DECIMA'TION. *n. ſ.* [from *decimate.*]
1. A tithing; a ſelection by lot or otherwiſe.
2. A ſelection by lot of every tenth ſoldier, in a general mutiny, for puniſhment.
By *decimation* and a tithed death,
Take thou the deſtin'd tenth. *Shakeſpeare's Timon.*
A *decimation* I will ſtrictly make
Of all who my Charinus did forſake;
And of each legion each centurion ſhall die. *Dryden.*

To DECI'PHER. *v. a.* [*dechiffrer*, French.]
1. To explain that which is written in ciphers.
Zelmane, that had the ſame character in her heart, could eaſily *decipher* it; and therefore, to keep him the longer in ſpeech, deſired to know the concluſion of the matter, and how the honeſt Dametas was eſcaped. *Sidney.*
Aſſurance is writ in a private character, not to be read, nor underſtood, but by the conſcience, to which the ſpirit of God has vouchſafed to *decipher* it. *South's Sermons.*
2. To write out; to mark down in characters.
Could I give you a lively repreſentation of guilt and horrour on this hand, and paint out eternal wrath, and *decipher* eternal vengeance on the other, then might I ſhew you the condition of a ſinner hearing himſelf denied by Chriſt. *South.*
Then were laws of neceſſity invented, that ſo every particular ſubject might find his principal pleaſure, *deciphered* unto him, in the tables of his laws. *Locke.*
3. To ſtamp; to characteriſe; to mark.
You are both *decipher'd*
For villains mark'd with rape. *Shakeſpeare's Titus Andronicus.*
4. To unfold; to unravel; as, *to* decipher *a perplexed affair.*

DECI'PHERER. *n. ſ.* [from *decipher.*] One who explains writings in cypher.

DECI'SION. *n. ſ.* [from *decide.*]
1. Determination of a difference.
Pleaſure and revenge
Have ears more deaf than adders, to the voice
Of any true *deciſion.* *Shakeſpeare's Troilus and Creſſida.*
The great number of the undertakers, the worth of ſome of them, and their zeal to bring the matter to a *deciſion*, are ſure arguments of the dignity and importance of it. *Woodward.*
War is a direct appeal to God for the *deciſion* of ſome diſpute, which can by no other means be poſſibly determined. *Atterbury's Sermons.*
2. Determination of an event.
The time approaches,
That will with due *deciſion* make us know
What we ſhall ſay we have, and what we owe. *Shak. Mach.*
Their arms are to the laſt *deciſion* bent,
And fortune labours with the vaſt event. *Dryden's Aurengz.*
3. It is uſed in Scotland for a narrative, or reports of the proceedings of the court of ſeſſion there.

DECI'SIVE. *adj.* [from *decide.*]
1. Having the power of determining any difference.
Such a reflection, though it carries nothing perfectly *deciſive* in it, yet creates a mighty confidence in his breaſt, and ſtrengthens him much in his opinion. *Atterbury's Sermons.*
This they are ready to look upon as a determination on their ſide, and *deciſive* of the controverſy between vice and virtue. *Rogers's Sermons.*
2. Having the power of ſettling any event.
For on th' event,
Deciſive of this bloody day, depends
The fate of kingdoms. *Philips.*

DECI'SIVELY. *adv.* [from *deciſive.*] In a concluſive manner.

DECI'SIVENESS. *n. ſ.* [from *deciſive.*] The power of terminating any difference, or ſettling an event.

DECI'SORY. *adj.* [from *decide.*] Able to determine or decide.

To DECK. *v. a.* [*decken*, Dutch.]
1. To cover; to overſpread.
Ye miſts and exhalations, that now riſe
From hill or ſteaming lake, duſky or grey,
'Till the ſun paint your fleecy ſkirts with gold,
In honour to the world's great Author, riſe!
Whether to *deck* with clouds th' uncolour'd ſky,
Or wet the thirſty earth with falling ſhowers,
Riſing or falling, ſtill advance his praiſe. *Milt. Par. Loſt.*
2. To dreſs; to array.
Sweet ornament! that *decks* a thing divine. *Shakeſpeare.*
Long may'ſt thou live to wail thy children's loſs,
And ſee another, as I ſee thee now,
Deck'd in thy rights, as thou art ſtall'd in mine. *Sh. R.* III.
She ſets to work millions of ſpinning worms,
That in their green ſhops weave the ſmooth-hair'd ſilk,
To *deck* her ſons. *Milton.*
3. To adorn; to embelliſh.
But direful, deadly black, both leaf and bloom,
Fit to adorn the head, and *deck* the dreary tomb. *Fai. Queen.*
Now the dew with ſpangles *deck'd* the ground,
A ſweeter ſpot of earth was never found. *Dryden.*
The god ſhall to his vot'ries tell
Each conſcious tear, each bluſhing grace,
That *deck'd* dear Eloiſa's face. *Prior.*

DECK. *n. ſ.* [from the verb.]
1. The floor of a ſhip.
Her keel plows hell,
And *deck* knocks heaven. *B. Johnſon.*
We have alſo raiſed our ſecond *decks*, and given more vent thereby to our ordinance, trying on our nether overloop. *Ralei.*
If any, born and bred under *deck*, had no other information but what ſenſe affords, he would be of opinion that the ſhip was as ſtable as a houſe. *Glanv. Sceſ. c.* 11.
On high-rais'd *decks* the haughty Belgians ride,
Beneath whoſe ſhade our humble frigates go. *Dryden.*
Day to night they bring,
With hymns and peans, to the Bowyer king:
At ſun-ſet to their ſhip they make return,
And ſnore ſecure on *decks* 'till roſy morn. *Dryden's Iliad.*
2. Pack of cards piled regularly on each other.
Beſides gems, many other ſorts of ſtones are regularly figured: the Amianthus, of parallel threads, as in the pile of velvet; and the Selenites, of parallel plates, as in a *deck* of cards. *Grew's Coſmol. b.* i. *c.* 2.

DE'CKER. *n. ſ.* [from *deck.*] A dreſſer; one that apparels or adorns; a coverer.

To DECLA'IM. *v. n.* [*declamo*, Latin.] To harangue; to ſpeak to the paſſions; to rhetoricate; to ſpeak ſet orations.
What are his miſchiefs, conſul? You *declaim*
Againſt his manners, and corrupt your own. *B. Johnſ. Cat.*
The ſplendid *declaimings* of novices and men of heat. *South.*
It is uſual for maſters to make their boys *declaim* on both ſides of an argument. *Swift.*
Dreſs up all the virtues in the beauties of oratory, and *declaim* aloud on the praiſe of goodneſs. *Watts's Improvement.*

DECLA'IMER. *n. ſ.* [from *declaim.*] One who makes ſpeeches with intent to move the paſſions.
Your Salamander is a perpetual *declaimer* againſt jealouſy. *Addiſon's Spectator*, N°. 198.

DECLAMA'TION. *n. ſ.* [*declamatio*, Latin.] A diſcourſe addreſſed to the paſſions; an harangue; a ſet ſpeech; a piece of rhetorick.
The cauſe why *declamations* prevail ſo greatly, is, for that men ſuffer themſelves to be deluded. *Hooker, b.* i. *ſ.* 8.
Thou mayſt forgive his anger, while thou makeſt uſe of the plainneſs of his *declamation.* *Taylor's Rule of living holy.*

DECLAMA'TOR. *n. ſ.* [Latin.] A declaimer; an orator; a rhetorician.
Who could, I ſay, hear this generous *declamator*, without being fired at his noble zeal. *Tatler*, N°. 56.

DECLA'MATORY. *adj.* [*declamatorius*, Latin.]
1. Relating to the practice of declaiming; pertaining to declamation; treated in the manner of a rhetorician.
This a while ſuſpended his interment, and became a *declamatory* theme amongſt the religious men of that age. *Watton.*
2. Appealing to the paſſions.
He has run himſelf into his own *declamatory* way, and almoſt forgotten that he was now ſetting up for a moral poet. *Dryden.*

DECLA'RABLE. *adj.* [from *declare.*] Capable of proof.
This is *declarable* from the beſt writers. *Brown's Vulg. Err.*

DECLARA'TION. *n. ſ.* [from *declare.*]
1. A proclamation or affirmation; oral expreſſion; publication.
His promiſes are nothing elſe but *declarations*, what God will do for the good of men. *Hooker, b.* i. *ſ.* 2.
Though wit and learning are certain and habitual perfections of the mind, yet the *declaration* of them, which alone brings the repute, is ſubject to a thouſand hazards. *South.*
There are no where ſo plain and full *declarations* of his mercy and love to the ſons of men, as are made in the goſpel. *Tillotſon, Sermon* 5.
2. An explanation of ſomething doubtful. Obſolete.
3. [In law.] Declaration *(declaratio)* is properly the ſhewing forth, or laying out, of an action perſonal in any ſuit, though it is uſed ſometimes for both perſonal and real actions. *Cowel.*

DECLA'RATIVE. *adj.* [from *declare.*] Making declaration; explanatory.
The names of things ſhould be always taken from ſomething obſervably *declarative* of their form or nature. *Grew.*
2. Making proclamation.
To this we may add the *vox populi*, ſo *declarative* on the ſame ſide. *Swift's Examiner*, N°. 44.

DECLA'RATORILY. *adv.* [from *declaratory.*] In the form of a declaration; not promiſſively; not in a decretory form.
Andreas Alciatus the civilian, and Franciſcus de Cordua, have both *declaratorily* confirmed the ſame. *Brown's Vulg. Err.*

DECLA'RATORY. *adj.* [from *declare.*] Affirmative; expreſſive; not decretory; not promiſſory.
Theſe bleſſings are not only *declaratory* of the good pleaſure and intention of God towards them, but likewiſe of the natural tendency of the thing. *Tillotſon, Serm.* 4.

To DECLA'RE. *v. a.* [*declaro*, Latin.]
1. To clear; to free from obſcurity.
To *declare* this a little, we muſt aſſume that the ſurfaces of ſuch bodies are exactly ſmooth. *Boyle on Colours.*
2. To make known; to tell evidently and openly.
It hath been *declared* unto ſome of you, that there are contentions among you. 1 *Cor.* i. 11.
The ſun by certain ſigns *declares*,
Both when the South projects a ſtormy day,
And when the clearing North will puff the clouds away.
Dryden's Virg. Geor. l. 620.
3. To publiſh; to proclaim.
Declare his glory among the heathens. 1 *Chron.* xvi. 24.
4. To ſhew in open view.
We are a conſiderable body, who, upon a proper occaſion, would not fail to *declare* ourſelves. *Addiſon.*

To DECLA'RE. *v. n.* To make a declaration; to proclaim ſome reſolution or opinion, ſome favour or oppoſition.
The internal faculties of will and underſtanding, decreeing and *declaring* againſt them. *Taylor's Rule of living holy.*
God is ſaid not to have left himſelf without witneſs in the world, there being ſomething fixed in the nature of men that will be ſure to teſtify and *declare* for him. *South's Sermons.*
Like fawning courtiers, for ſucceſs they wait;
And then come ſmiling, and *declare* for fate. *Dryden.*

DECLA'REMENT. *n. ſ.* [from *declare.*] Diſcovery; declaration; teſtimony.
Cryſtal will calify into electricity; that is, a power to attract ſtraws, or light bodies, and convert the needle freely placed, which is a *declarement* of very different parts. *Brown.*

DECLA'RER. *n. ſ.* [from *declare.*] A proclaimer; one that makes any thing known.

DECLE'NSION. *n. ſ.* [*declinatio*, Latin.]
1. Tendency from a greater to a leſs degree of excellence.
A beauty-waining and diſtreſſed widow,
Ev'n in the afternoon of her beſt days,
Seduc'd the pitch and height of all his thoughts
To baſe *declenſion.* *Shakeſpeare's Richard* III.
Take the picture of a man in the greenneſs and vivacity of his youth, and in the latter date and *declenſions* of his drooping years, and you will ſcarce know it to belong to the ſame perſon. *South's Sermons.*
2. Declination; deſcent.
We may reaſonably allow as much for the *declenſion* of the land from that place to the ſea, as for the immediate height of the mountain. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*
3. Inflexion; manner of changing nouns.
Declenſion is only the variation or change of the termination of a noun, whilſt it continues to ſignify the ſame thing. *Clarke's Latin Grammar.*

DECLI'NABLE. *adj.* [from *decline.*] Having variety of terminations; as, a *declinable* noun.

DECLINA'TION. *n. ſ.* [*declinatio*, Latin.]
1. Deſcent; change from a better to a worſe ſtate; decay.
The queen, bearing of the *declination* of a monarchy, took it ſo ill, as ſhe would never after hear of his ſuit. *Bacon, Eſſ.* 23.
Hope waits upon the flow'ry prime;
And Summer, though it be leſs gay,
Yet is not look'd on as a time
Of *declination* or decay. *Waller.*
2. The act of bending down; as, a *declination* of the head.
3. Variation from rectitude; oblique motion; obliquity.
Suppoſing there were a *declination* of atoms, yet will it not effect what they intend; for then they do all decline, and ſo there will be no more concourſe than if they did perpendicularly deſcend. *Ray on the Creation.*
This *declination* of atoms in their deſcent, was itſelf either neceſſary or voluntary. *Bentley.*
4. Varition from a fixed point.
There is no *declination* of latitude, nor variation of the elevation of the pole, notwithſtanding what ſome have aſſerted. *Woodward's Natural Hiſtory.*
5. [In navigation.] The variation of the needle from the true meridian of any place to the Eaſt or Weſt.
6. [In aſtronomy.] The *declination* of a ſtar we call its ſhorteſt diſtance from the equator. *Brown's Vulgar Errours, b.* i. *c.* 13.
7. [In grammar.] The declenſion or inflection of a noun through its various terminations.
8. DECLINATION *of a Plane* [in dialing], is an arch of the horizon, comprehended either between the plane and the prime vertical circle, if accounted from the Eaſt or Weſt; or elſe between the meridian and the plane, if accounted from the North or South. *Harris.*

DECLINA'TOR. } *n. ſ.* [from *decline.*] An inſtrument in dial-
DECLI'NATORY. } ing, by which the declination, reclination, and inclination of planes are determined. *Chambers.*
There are ſeveral ways to know the ſeveral planes; but the readieſt is by an inſtrument called a *declinatory*, fitted to the variation of your place. *Moxon's Mech. Exer.*

To DECLI'NE. *v. n.* [*decline*, Latin.]
1. To lean downward.
And then with kind embracements, tempting kiſſes,
And with *declining* head into his boſom,
Bid him ſhed tears, as being overjoy'd. *Shakeſpeare.*
2. To deviate; to run into obliquities.
Neither ſhalt thou ſpeak in a cauſe to *decline* after many, to wreſt judgment. *Ex.* xxiii. 2.
3. To ſhun; to avoid to do any thing.
4. To ſink; to be impaired; to decay. Oppoſed to improvement or exaltation.
Sons at perfect age, and fathers *declining*, the father ſhould be as a ward to the ſon. *Shakeſpeare's King Lear.*
They'll be by th' fire, and preſume to know
What's done i' th' capitol; who's like to riſe,
Who thrives, and who *declines.* *Shakeſpeare's Coriolanus.*
Sometimes nations will *decline* ſo low
From virtue, which is reaſon, that no wrong,
But juſtice, and ſome fatal curſe annex'd,
Deprives them of their outward liberty. *Milton's Par. Loſt.*
That empire muſt *decline*,
Whoſe chief ſupport and ſinews are of coin. *Waller.*
And nature, which all acts of life deſigns,
Not like ill poets, in the laſt *declines.* *Denham.*
Thus then my lov'd Euryalus appears;
He looks the prop of my *declining* years! *Dryden's Æn.*
Next that, is when autumnal warmth *declines*;
E'er heat is quite decay'd, or cold begun,
Or Capricorn admits the Winter ſun. *Dryden's Virg. Georg.*
Faith and morality are *declined* among us. *Swift.*
God, in his wiſdom, hath been pleaſed to load our *declining* years with many ſufferings, with diſeaſes, and decays of nature. *Swift.*

To DECLI'NE. *v. a.*
1. To bend downward; to bring down.
And now fair Phœbus 'gan *decline* in haſte,
His weary waggon to the weſtern vale. *Fairy Queen, b.* ii.
And leaves the reſemblance of a lover, fixt
In melancholy deep, with head *declin'd*,
And love-dejected eyes. *Thomſon's Spring, l.* 1020.
2. To ſhun; to avoid; to refuſe; to be cautious of.
He had wiſely *declined* that argument, though in their common ſermons they gave it. *Clarendon, b.* viii.
Since the muſes do invoke my pow'r,
I ſhall no more *decline* that ſacred bow'r,
Where Gloriana, their great miſtreſs, lies. *Waller.*
Though I the buſineſs did *decline*,
Yet I contriv'd the whole deſign,
And ſent them their petition. *Denham.*
If it ſhould be ſaid that theſe minute bodies are indiſſoluble, becauſe it is their nature to be ſo, that would not be to render a reaſon of the thing propoſed, but, in effect, to *decline* rendering any. *Boyle's Hiſtory of Firmneſs.*
Could her mind have been captivated with the glories of this world, ſhe had them all laid before her; but ſhe generouſly *declined* them, becauſe ſhe ſaw the acceptance of them was inconſiſtent with religion. *Addiſon's Freeholder*, N°. 21.
Whatever they judged to be moſt agreeable, or diſagreeable, they would purſue or *decline.* *Atterbury.*
3. To modify a word by various terminations; to inflect.
You *decline* muſa, and conſtrue Latin, by the help of a tutor, or with ſome Engliſh tranſlation. *Watts's Improvement.*

DECLI'NE. *n. ſ.* [from the ſubſtantive.] The ſtate of tendency to the worſe; diminution; decay. Contrary to increaſe, improvement, or elevation.
Thy riſe of fortune did I only wed;
From its *decline*, determin'd to recede. *Prior.*
Thoſe fathers lived in the *decline* of literature. *Swift.*

DECLI'VITY. *n. ſ.* [*declivis*, Latin.] Inclination or obliquity reckoned downwards; gradual deſcent; not precipitous or perpendicular: the contrary to acclivity.
Rivers will not flow, unleſs upon *declivity*, and their ſources